Packaged Drinking Water and Natural Mineral Water now being produced according to the BIS Standards is fit for human consumption.

Export contract of rice

1590. SHRIPREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's image as a grain exporter in the international market has been tarnished due to delay in execution of export contracts of rice;

(b) whether it is also a fact that non-execution of contracts by the exporters is due to FCIs inability to move grains to port and now demanding a price of Rs. 6160 as against old price of Rs. 5910 per tonne of rice on which pending contracts were signed; and

(c) if so, what urgent steps are being taken to restore India's image and preventing such lapses in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Safety standard for packaged water

1591. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after initially raising the safety standards for packaged drinking water to European Union specifications, the Bureau of Indian Standards backtracked on its move;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) No, Sir. BIS taking into consideration the limits of pesticide residues laid down by US FDA, EU, World Health Organization,